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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 KATHLEEN DOUGLAS,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 EMPLOYBRIDGE, LLC, et al.,

14 Defendants.

CASE NO. C18-1215JLR

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO  
CONTINUE TRIAL

15 Before the court is the parties' stipulated motion to modify the court's scheduling  
16 order. (Stip. Mot. (Dkt. # 13).) For the reasons stated below, the court DENIES the  
17 motion.

18 Plaintiff initiated this action on August 17, 2018. (Compl. (Dkt. # 1).) On  
19 November 27, 2018, the court scheduled the case for trial on February 24, 2020. (*See*  
20 *Sched. Order* (Dkt. # 8) at 1.)

21 The parties jointly request "a ninety (90) day continuance of the trial date and all  
22 unexpired pretrial deadlines in this matter." (Stip. Mot. at 1.) The parties represent that

1 good cause exists to grant their request because the parties are exploring settlement  
2 options and would like to avoid the expense of litigation while settlement discussions are  
3 ongoing. (*See id.* at 1-2.)

4 Absent a showing of good cause, the court does not grant “short” trial  
5 continuances. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4); (Sched. Order at 2 (“The court will alter these  
6 dates only upon good cause shown . . .”).) Here, the parties’ only support for their claim  
7 that good cause exists is their stated desire for additional time to engage in settlement  
8 negotiations and a mediation. (*See* Stip. Mot. at 1-2.) The parties offer no explanation as  
9 to why they are not able to complete these negotiations under the current case schedule.  
10 (*See generally id.*) Thus, the court finds that the parties have not shown good cause. *See,*  
11 *e.g., Rybski v. Home Depot USA, Inc.*, No. CV-12-751-PHX-LOA, 2012 WL 5416586, at  
12 \*2 (D. Ariz. Oct. 17, 2012) (“The parties’ settlement negotiations or mediation do not  
13 constitute good cause to continue the Rule 16 deadlines.”). The court has a full trial  
14 calendar and will not imperil the trial dates of other parties. Accordingly, the court  
15 DENIES the parties’ stipulated motion. (Dkt. # 13.)

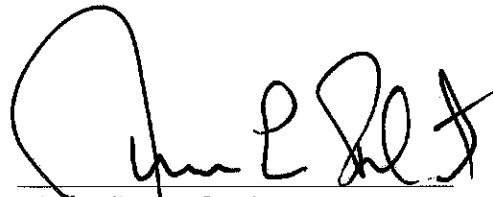
16 Nevertheless, the court will consider moving the parties’ trial date to the end of the  
17 court’s trial calendar. If the parties wish to seek this relief, they should file a new  
18 stipulated motion to that effect. The parties should be aware that the court is presently  
19 scheduling trials in February 2021. If the court moves this matter to the end of its trial  
20 calendar, the court will also issue a new scheduling order with respect to all remaining

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1 pretrial deadlines. If the parties agree on this alternative, they should so inform the court  
2 within seven (7) days of the date of this order.

3 Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James L. Robart', written over a horizontal line.

JAMES L. ROBART  
United States District Judge